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UN: The General Assembly's debate on the Middle East situation opens today.

Egypt has been circulating a draft resolution which is stronger than the one passed by the Assembly last year. The draft includes language calling on member states to refrain from providing Israel with military and economic assistance and declaring illegal the changes made by the Israeli administration in the occupied Arab territories. Cairo's resolution also calls for compensation for the victims of Israeli "aggression." In an effort to build support for a resolution along these lines, the Egyptians have asked a selected group of non-aligned countries to come up with a draft of their own. The British and French, on the other hand, have been trying to convince the Egyptians that Cairo's best interest lies in making its resolution as mild as possible. They told Egyptian Foreign Minister Zayyat that he should aim at attracting maximum support from the nine members of the European Communities.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eban has avoided any show of concern about the debate. He does not plan to attend the General Assembly session "unless there is an urgent need."

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